



THE NOAA FORECAST

From the sun to the sea and everywhere in between
News from NOAA's Office of Communications

NOAA Seeks Comment on Revised 5-Year Research Plan

The first revision of NOAA's 5-Year Research Plan, initially published in 2005, was released for public comment on June 18.

NOAA research is undertaken in partnership with the wider national and international research community, and NOAA continually seeks advice from that community to ensure its research remains vital and relevant. This public comment period will provide the feedback needed to produce a strong guiding document for research in NOAA for the next 5 years.

The 30-day comment period offers the opportunity for feedback on the revised NOAA 5-Year Research Plan for 2007-2011.

The NOAA Research Council welcomes your comments on the 5-Year Research Plan, available for review on the [NOAA Research Council Website](http://noaa.researchcouncil.gov). Comments can be submitted electronically to noaa.review.5year@noaa.gov.

Postcards from the field



NOAA Fisheries works with external partners to free an entangled North Atlantic right whale off the coast of Jacksonville, FL. The rescue team was able to remove enough gear to allow the whale to shed most of the remaining gear on its own.



When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors!

June 24-30 is Lightning Safety Awareness Week. Summer is the peak season for one of the nation's deadliest weather phenomena—lightning.

The week is designed to lower lightning death and injury rates and America's vulnerability to one of nature's deadliest hazards.

NOAA reminds you to get inside a building with plumbing or electricity as soon you hear thunder. A hard topped car or truck is also OK. Picnic shelters, tents and bikes are bad news. Stay inside for 30 minutes after the last thunder clap. Once indoors, stay away from anything electrical, like computers and corded phones. Cell phones are OK. Keep away from plumbing--indoor pools, showers, tubs and sinks. If you see someone struck by lightning, call 911. Heart problems, burns, and nerve damage are common when struck by lightning.

In the United States, an average of 66 people are killed each year by lightning.

For more tips, go to <http://www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov/>

From the Helm Admiral Lautenbacher

On June 26-27 representatives from the commercial and recreational fishing industry, investment community and environmental organizations will meet to discuss the future of aquaculture in the U.S.

The summit will feature a broad agenda focused on the business opportunities and challenges for U.S. marine aquaculture. The summit will also focus on specific action items, including:

- Legislation
- Regulation
- Research and development initiatives
- Economic incentives and investment programs, and
- Scientific research priorities to address public policy issues

With an increased demand for seafood putting pressure on wild stocks and the U.S. trade deficit, the time for a strong U.S. aquaculture industry has arrived. However, we must make sure we get it right.

Stakeholder input has been valuable in our research efforts and in crafting our aquaculture bill. As we continue to move forward we will continue to engage stakeholders to ensure that we are taking the necessary precautions and creating an environment where aquaculture can flourish.

The Aquaculture Summit will be the first of many opportunities to shape this important debate and I look forward to hearing from you.

NOAA on the Hill

NOAA honored some of its most prized partners this week in a ceremony on Capitol Hill.

The agency presented the 2007 Mark Trail Award to 15 individuals and organizations for supporting the agency's NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards program.

The award, in its eleventh year, honors individuals and organizations that use or provide NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards receivers or transmitters to save lives and protect property.

The Mark Trail Awards are named for the nationally syndicated comic strip character that serves as the campaign symbol for the NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards program. Since 1995, Jack Elrod, writer and illustrator of Mark Trail, and King Features Syndicate have been strong advocates for publicizing severe weather safety through the use of the radios.

Representatives Spencer Bachus (R-AL), John Boozman (R-AR), Nancy Boyda (D-KS), Jerry Costello (D-IL), Brad Ellsworth (D-IN), Ron Klein (D-FL), John Linder (R-GA), Jerry Moran (D-KS), Randy Neugebauer (R-TX), Mike Rogers (R-AL), and Vic Snyder (D-AR) attended the ceremony.

A complete list of awardees will be posted at <http://www.weather.gov/nwr/awards.htm>.

House CJS Subcommittee Marks up Spending Bill

On June 11, the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice and Science marked up the FY08 spending bill. The bill provides for just over \$4 billion in funding for NOAA, about \$200 million over the President's request.

The bill highlighted a new emphasis on climate change related activities, and includes full funding for the National Weather Service, funding for NPOESS climate sensors and increases for oceans and climate science. The bill was passed with no amendments by the Subcommittee, and moves to the Full Committee for consideration.

NOAA OFFICIALLY OPENS NEW ENVIRONMENTAL SATELLITE CENTER

Maryland's two Senators joined the NOAA Administrator in opening the new home for around-the-clock, environmental satellite operations. The NOAA Satellite Operations Facility in Suitland, Md., provides data critical for weather and climate prediction.



Tropical regions are continuously monitored by NOAA's geostationary (GOES) weather satellites and the resulting satellite imagery are utilized by National Hurricane Center forecasters and are available to the public.

Each day, NSOF processes more than 16 billion

bytes of environmental satellite data from NOAA's geostationary and polar-orbiting spacecraft, and the Department of Defense's Meteorological Satellite Program (DMSP). The NOAA National Weather Service uses these data for constant tracking of severe weather, and as inputs into models for medium to long range forecasts for weather and tracking climate change. NSOF, which spans



208,271 gross square feet, supports more than \$50 million of high technology equipment, including 16 antennas that control more than \$4.7 billion worth of environmental spacecraft.

Have you seen this crab?

A four-inch Asian crustacean, aptly named the Chinese mitten crab, might turn out to be Aquatic Enemy #1. Or not. No one really knows which is why they want more details.

If you spot one along the Chesapeake Bay or Atlantic Coast, you can help by reporting it to the mitten crab hotline: 443-482-2222, or you can send a photo of the crab to SERCmittenCrab@si.edu



Did you know?

"Paul" was introduced as the automated voice of NOAA Weather Radio in the late 1990's. He was eventually replaced by "Tom," "Donna," and Spanish-speaking "Javier." Hear samples at <http://www.weather.gov/nwr/newvoice.htm>

Comments? Suggestions? Want to be added to or removed from our list?
Email us at:
External.Affairs@noaa.gov

Upcoming Events

June

26-27—National Marine Aquaculture Summit—Washington, DC

25-29 – International Symposium on Remote Sensing of the Environment – Costa Rica

July

2-6 – World Environmental Education Congress – Durban, South Africa

13-17 - National Association of Counties, Annual Meeting - Richmond, VA